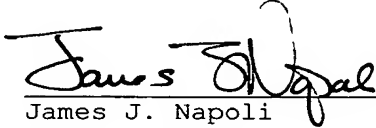




PATENT--NO FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	)	I hereby certify that this
	)	paper is being deposited
MARIO SPATAFORA	)	with the United States
	)	Postal Service with suffi-
Serial No.: 10/607,705	)	cient postage, as first
	)	class mail, in an envelope
Filed: June 27, 2003	)	addressed to:
	)	Commissioner for Patents
For: METHOD OF PRODUCING SOFT	)	P.O. Box 1450
PACKETS OF CIGARETTES	)	Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
)	
Attorney Docket No. 20022/38497A	)	Dated: October 8, 2003
)	
Group Art Unit: 3721)	
)	
Examiner: Kahsay Habte)	
)	
)	
	)	James J. Napoli
	)	Registration No. 32,361
	)	Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicant hereby brings to the examiner's attention patents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicant encloses a completed Form PTO-1449 listing of the possibly pertinent patents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office

Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the patents not enclosed herein were provided in a prior application that applicants rely upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Copies of nonenclosed documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 were provided to, or cited by, the examiner of the following pending patent application:

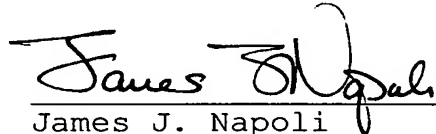
Mario Spatafora
Serial No. 10/142,254
Filing Date: May 14, 2002
Title: Method of Producing
Soft Packets of Cigarettes

If the examiner needs a new copy of a patent listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, applicant can provide such a copy.

Respectfully submitted,

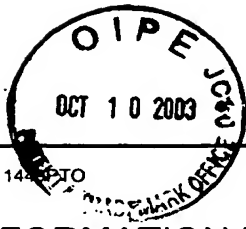
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Napoli", is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Napoli
(Registration No. 32,361)
Attorneys for Applicants
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois
October 8, 2003



Form 1449-PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/145,254
Filing Date	May 14, 2002
First Named Inventor	Mario Spatafora
Group Art Unit	3721
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	20022/38497

Sheet	1	of	1
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY
		4,838,846	06/1989
		5,010,929	04/30/1991
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		5,701,725	12/1997
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		6,557,321	05/2003

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		EP 0 756 996 (EPO)	02/05/97
		EP 0 865 987 (EPO)	09/23/98
		EP 0 972 704 (EPO)	01/19/00
		EP 1 022 220 (EPO)	07/26/00
		EP 1 052 171 (EPO)	11/15/00

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.